

D-734
Toddville Seafood Company
Toddville vicinity
Private

1970

The Toddville Seafood Company is housed in a concrete block and frame packinghouse erected in 1970 on the location of the W. C. Dean & Company plant, initially established in 1915. The Toddville Seafood Company packinghouse is located on Farm Creek along with the adjacent Meredith & Meredith facility. Both packinghouses are now operated by the Tolley family. Although of relatively modern construction in contrast to the Meredith & Meredith facility, the Toddville plant follows a common architectural form with a two-story section flanked by a long single-story wing that houses the main processing room. The utilitarian seafood packinghouses are building forms that have defined the marsh and creek landscapes since the early twentieth century.

William C. Dean & Co. was established in 1915 near Toddville on Farm Creek and the firm packed fish, oysters, and crabmeat under the name "Dean's of Dorchester." The building burned down in the late 1940s and was rebuilt. In 1946 Noah L. Todd and Ruby L. Todd sold 83 acres of land known as "Insley's Purchase Regulated" to Stella J. Dean and William C. Dean.

The plant burned down again around 1970 and was rebuilt as a 4,000 square foot frame and concrete block building. In June 1971 Bernard P. Murphy sold the property to Toddville Seafoods, Inc. including all materials, supplies, merchandise, inventory, and seafood packing equipment located on the property. Toddville Seafoods, Inc. was a subsidiary of the adjacent Meredith & Meredith firm. The facility still processes seafood.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-734

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Toddville Seafood, Inc. W. C. Dean Packinghouse
other Meredith & Meredith, Inc.

2. Location

street and number 2345 Farm Creek Road — not for publication
city, town Toddville vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Meredith & Meredith, Inc.
street and number 2343 Farm Creek Road telephone 410-397-8129
city, town Toddville state Maryland zip code 21672

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 169 folio 401
city, town Cambridge tax map 102 tax parcel 6 tax ID number 10-005434

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	—
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	—
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	—
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	—
			Total

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-734

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Toddville Seafood Company is located at 2343 Farm Creek Road on Farm Creek in the vicinity of Toddville, Dorchester County, Maryland. The packinghouse faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1970 on the same site as W. C. Dean packinghouse, the combination two-story and single-story structure is partially supported on a poured concrete block foundation. At the west end of the packinghouse is a two-story frame section sheathed with vertical corrugated metal panels and covered by a medium pitched metal roof.

The frame section has a gable-front principal façade with a door openings on the first and second floors. An exterior staircase provides access to the second story. The edge of the roof has a slightly extended eave. The west side of the frame section is defined by a asymmetrical fenestration. A single, partially glazed door pierces the first floor along with a two-pane jalousie type window. The second story is lighted by four six-over-six sash windows. The north gable end of the frame section is pierced by a small two-pane first floor window, and a pair of six-over-six sash windows light the second story. The east side of the frame section is covered largely by the single-story concrete block walled packinghouse.

The south (main) elevation of the concrete block section is extended by a shed roofed porch that shelters a double door entrance that opens into a hall leading to the picking room. Protected under the cover of the shed roof is a walk-in cooler as well as a screened in porch.

The north side of the main building is partially covered by single story flat roofed concrete block walled additions. The concrete block walls are pierced by a row of three-pane jalousie-type windows. The main packinghouse wall is braced by a concrete block buttress. A metal conveyor protrudes through the north wall of the picking room for the exit of crab waste.

The interior of the concrete block section has a poured concrete floor and plain concrete block walls.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-734

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Toddville Seafood Company is housed in a concrete block and frame packinghouse erected around 1970 on the same location as the W. C. Dean & Company plant, established in 1915. The Toddville Seafood Company packinghouse is located on Farm Creek along the adjacent Meredith & Meredith facility. Both packinghouses are operated by the Tolley family. Although of relatively modern construction in contrast to the Meredith & Meredith facility, the Toddville plant follows a common architectural form with a two-story section flanked by a long single-story wing that houses the main processing room. The utilitarian seafood packinghouses are building types that have defined the marsh and creek landscape since the early twentieth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

William C. Dean & Co. was established in 1915 near Toddville on Fishing Bay and packed fish, oysters and crabmeat under the brand name "Dean's of Dorchester." The building burned down in the late 1940s and was rebuilt.¹ In 1946, Noah L. Todd and Ruby L. Todd sold 83 acres of land known as "Insley's Purchase Regulated" to Stella J. Dean and William C. Dean her husband.

The plant burned down again around 1970 and was rebuilt as a 4,000 square foot frame and concrete block building.² In June, 1971, Bernard P. Murphy sold the property to Toddville Seafoods, Inc. including all materials, supplies, merchandise, inventory and seafood packing equipment located on the property and including the boiler, cooker, tables, chairs, office equipment, one Chevrolet bus, cooking carts, merchandise, and crab floats.³

Toddville Seafoods, Inc. was a subsidiary of the adjacent packinghouse of Meredith & Meredith, and Andrew Tolley, son of Calvert Tolley, was the plant manager. In 1977, the company employed 24 people

¹ Interview with J.C. Tolley, Toddville, Maryland, December 14, 2001.

² Interview with J.C. Tolley, Toddville, Maryland, December 14, 2001.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 169/401, June 8, 1971.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-734

Name Toddville Seafood Company Packinghouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

(four men and twenty women) and packed crabmeat, live crabs and shucked oysters.⁴ In 1982 the company employed thirty workers.⁵ In 1998, the workforce had dwindled to six women in their 60s and 70s.⁶

Andrew Tolley served as president of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association and the National Blue Crabs Industries Association. His father, Calvert Tolley, helped design the Quik Pik machine that can shake the meat out of 100 crabs a minute but does not differentiate between premium lump meat and the less expensive parts. Andrew Tolley invented a "lump cutter" machine to extract lump crab meat and was seeking a patent in 1998.⁷

⁴ *Directory of Maryland Manufacturers 1977-1978*, Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development, p. 168.

⁵ *Directory of Maryland Manufacturers 1983-1984*, Maryland Department of Economic and Community Development, p. 296.

⁶ Mary Pemberton, Associated Press Writer, "Seafood Packing Plants on the Eastern Shore Face Mounting Obstacles," January 28, 1998, <http://www.stardem.com/locals/news/seafood/sfpackingplants.html>.

⁷ Interview with J. C. Tolley, Toddville, Maryland, December 14, 2001.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-734

Name Toddville Seafood Company Packinghouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Toddville Seafood, Inc.
2345 Farm Creek Road
Toddville, Dorchester County, Maryland

Chain of title

PLC 169/401 Bernard P. Murphy

to

6/8/1971 Toddville Seafoods, Inc.

Bernard P. Murphy does hereby grant and convey, bargain and sell unto the said Toddville Seafoods, Inc....all materials, supplies, merchandise, inventory and seafood packing equipment located upon the property above described, and including the following: boiler, cooker, tables, chairs, office equipment, one Chrevrolet bus, cooking carts, merchandise, crab floats....

RSM 58/371 Noah L. Todd
Ruby L. Todd

to

6/14/1946 Stella J. Dean and William C. Dean her husband

Lot No. 2....parcel of land known as "Insley's Purchase Regulated," situated near Toddville on Farm Creek and either side of the public county road...83 acres of land excepting....about one-half acre, more or less which was conveyed unto Charles W. Meredith and others (CL 28/535, 10/5/1903) and about three quarters of an acre which was conveyed unto Artillis M. Todd and others (WHM 9/164, 8/7/1920)

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-734

Name Toddville Seafood Company Packinghouse
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

RSM 58/325

State of Maryland

to

8/15/1899

Noah L. Todd

Lot No. 2 "Insley's Purchase Regulated"

A part of the land which was granted unto the said Noah L. Todd by a patent from the State of Maryland dated 15 August 1899, Annapolis Patent Record Book, WOM 1/148, Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 58/325)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-734

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

(For a full listing of the resources see footnotes)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .83 acres
Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre
Quadrangle name Wingate, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property has been reduced in size from its historic metes and bounds. The property line along the creek front is historic.

11. Form Prepared by

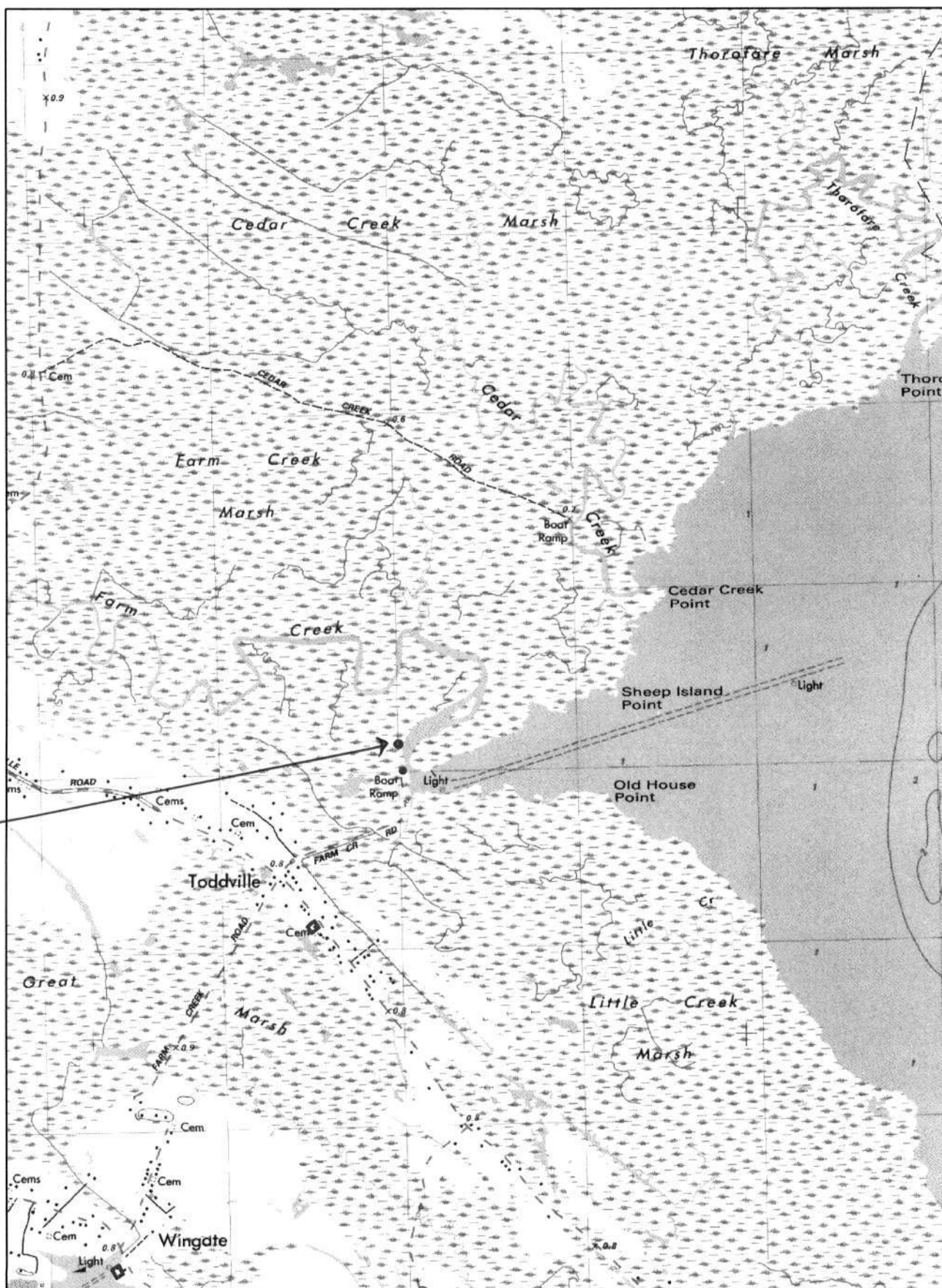
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian and Virginia Jenkins, Business Historian, CBMM		
organization	Private Consultants	date	12/14/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

D-734
Toddville Seafood Company
Wingate Quadrangle





D-734

TOWNVILLE SEASONS COMPANY

TOWNVILLE VICINITY, DORCHESTER C. MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

12/2001, PAUL TOWNST. PHOTOGRAPHER

W. J. M. D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 4



D-734

Tonbridge Services Company

Tonbridge vicinity, Dorchester Co., MD

South elevation of Packerhouse area
dated

12/2001, Paul Tourant, Photographer
NEZ / M.D. Historical Trust

2 of 4



D-734

Tonnville Seaweed Company

Tonnville, Dorchester Co., MD.

North elevation with creek and docks

12/2001, Phil Tonn, Photographer

NEZ./MD. Historical Trust

3 of 4



D-734

TODDVILLE SEARSON COMPANY
TODDVILLE, DORCHESTER CO., MD.

NORTH ELEVATION

12/2001, PAUL TODD ACT, PHOTOGRAPHED
NEZ/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 SK 4